

To: Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair  
Representative Joe Bertram, III, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager Phone: 532-0806  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB2831 SD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB2831 SD1 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii center on aging research and education for faculty positions and program expenses.

The recent studies and surveys (2007-2008) presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving provided important information about Hawaii's aging population and the wants and needs of family caregivers. It supports the need to create a comprehensive support system that allows people to "age in place" and the critical need to coordinate research, education and training. The University of Hawaii's center on aging education and research has been a catalyst in bringing people and community agencies together. But there is much more work to do to.

The Society supports:

- Expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level.
- Development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of care to help assure that the best combination of health care and other services is provided.

We believe the University of Hawaii's center on aging education and research is the most appropriate entity to coordinate and facilitate research, education and training efforts of the State's elderly population as well as health and legal service providers. We support all the roles identified in this Bill. For these reasons, we ask you to vote in favor of SB2831 SD1 to appropriate funds for faculty positions and program expenses. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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